
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

JANUARY 5, 1865.

Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Post Offices and Post Roads.

FEBRUARY 21, 1865.

Reported back without amendment, demand for previous question pending, ordered to be printed.

Mr. KNOX, on leave, introduced the following bill:

A BILL

To incorporate the National Mississippi Bridge Company.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
3 That Christian Raub, Irwin L. Smith, William M. McPher-
4 son, George Gehrke, Ferdinand W. Cronenbold, Edward
5 Walsh, Oliver D. Filley, Dwight Durkee, Daniel R. Garri-
6 son, and Gustavus H. Schaeffer, and their associates, and
7 their successors, are hereby constituted a body corporate and
8 politic, by the name and style of the National Mississippi
9 Bridge Company, for the purpose of constructing a bridge,
10 with all machinery, fixtures, toll-houses, depots, and other
11 buildings and erections necessary and proper for the passage,
12 protection, and transfer of persons and property over the

13 Mississippi river, and such other structures and extensions to
14 said bridge, east and west of the river, requisite for the most
15 practicable grading of the same for railroad purposes, at or as
16 near as may be to the city of Saint Louis, State of Missouri;
17 and said company, by their corporate name, shall have perpetual
18 succession, and shall be capable in law of purchasing, taking,
19 holding, using, selling, pledging, conveying, and disposing of
20 real estate, or other property, whether personal or mixed, so
21 far as the same may be necessary for the purposes herein men-
22 tioned; may have a common seal, which they may alter or
23 renew at pleasure; may sue and be sued, plead and be im-
24 pleaded, defend and be defended against, contract and be
25 contracted with, may make such by-laws, rules, and regula-
26 tions, appoint such officers, agents, and servants, and generally
27 do all such acts and things, not inconsistent with the laws
28 and Constitution of the United States, as may be requisite
29 and proper for the due execution and management of the
30 work to be done, and for conducting the business of said
31 company.

1 SEC. 2. *And be it further enacted,* That all the cor-
2 porate powers of said National Mississippi Bridge Company
3 shall be vested in and exercised by a board of directors and
4 such other officers and agents as they may elect or appoint.
5 Said board shall consist of seven members—three and four of
6 whom, respectively, to be elected alternately and annually.

7 Four of them, after the first year of its regular constitution,
8 by a majority in interest of the stockholders present, and
9 voting in person or by proxy, at such time and place as shall
10 be prescribed by the by-laws of said company, and who shall
11 hold their offices until their successors are duly elected and
12 qualified. Previous to such elections, the corporators herein
13 named shall constitute the board of directors, five of whom
14 shall constitute a quorum to do business; they may, at
15 any time after the passage of this act, cause books to be
16 opened for subscriptions to the capital stock of said company,
17 at such time and place, and in such manner, as may be pre-
18 scribed by them.

1 SEC. 3. *And be it further enacted,* That the capital
2 stock of said company shall be five millions of dollars, which
3 shall be divided into five thousand shares of one thousand
4 dollars each; and said capital stock may be increased to ten
5 millions of dollars. When one million of dollars shall be sub-
6 scribed, the corporators shall call a meeting of the stockhold-
7 ers, for the purpose of electing a board of directors, at such
8 time and place as they may fix and appoint, of which, and of
9 any subsequent election, three months' notice shall be given
10 in at least three daily newspapers designated for that purpose,
11 one thereof to be published in the city of Saint Louis, Mis-
12 souri.

1 SEC. 4. *And be it further enacted,* That it shall be law-

2 ful for said corporation to borrow money at any rate of
3 interest, and to mortgage the franchises and property, and to
4 issue bonds, secured by said mortgage, and sell the same at
5 any agreed rate of discount, and for railroad corporations in
6 their corporate capacity to subscribe to the capital stock of
7 said company.

1 SEC. 5. *And be it further enacted,* That the said com-
2 pany shall have the same power to acquire title to lands ne-
3 cessary for the construction of said bridge and for the ap-
4 proaches to it from public highways, and the same power to
5 take materials from lands in the neighborhood for the con-
6 struction thereof; and the proceedings therein shall be con-
7 ducted in the same manner as is provided for in the acts to
8 authorize the formation of railroad associations, and to regu-
9 late the same, approved by the States of Missouri and Illinois,
10 respectively; and said company shall also have the right to
11 protect the banks of the river above and below said bridge,
12 so far as may be necessary, to keep the channel within the
13 opening of the same for the passage of vessels, and for that
14 purpose to acquire, condemn, and take lands and material in
15 the manner aforesaid.

1 SEC. 6. *And be it further enacted,* That the bridge
2 hereby authorized shall be built of the best material used for
3 the purpose of a permanent structure, with sufficient capacity
4 for double tracks for railroad cars and wagons, and also for

5 two footpaths, not less than four feet wide; and over that por-
 6 tion of the Mississippi river which is navigable for steamboats,
 7 its superstructure shall be placed at such an elevation, not less
 8 than seventy feet, above the high water mark of the flood of
 9 the year one thousand eight hundred and forty-four, as to
 10 admit free and easy passage of any steamboat, vessel, and
 11 other water craft of usual construction and dimensions. Said
 12 bridge, when so erected, shall not obstruct or impede the navi-
 13 gation of the river, and shall be properly lighted, attended,
 14 and managed, so as to afford safe and easy passage for all
 15 persons and property.

1 SEC. 7. *And be it further enacted,* That the property of
 2 said bridge, with its appurtenances, shall be vested in said
 3 company, their successors, and assigns forever; and said com-
 4 pany may demand and receive as a condition precedent to the
 5 passage of any person or property on the same, tolls, not to
 6 exceed the rate of tolls now received by the Wiggins Ferry
 7 Company at Saint Louis, Missouri.

1 SEC. 8. *And be it further enacted,* That for purposes of
 2 taxation, all property owned by this corporation shall be taken
 3 and deemed as personal property in the shape of stock in the
 4 hands of the stockholders, and the same shall be assessed and
 5 taxed as stock only, and the stockholders shall be liable only
 6 for the amount of their stock.

1 SEC. 9. *And be it further enacted,* That the aforesaid

2 bridge, when the same shall be constructed, as is hereinbefore
3 provided, is declared to be a post road for the passage of the
4 mails of the United States.

1 SEC. 10. *And be it further enacted*, That the actual con-
2 struction of said bridge shall commence as soon as three mil-
3 lions of dollars of the capital stock are subscribed, and it shall
4 be completed within the time prescribed for the completion of
5 the Union Pacific railway from the Mississippi river to the
6 Pacific coast, unless this charter shall be forfeited.

1 SEC. 11. *And be it further enacted*, That this act shall
2 be considered a public act in all courts of the United States,
3 and shall be in force from and after its passage.